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Patent Application  
Serial No. 09/512,935**REMARKS**

The application was filed with 24 claims, all of which were canceled in a previous amendment. New claims 25-43 were added in that same amendment. Claims 41-43 were withdrawn from consideration in response to a prior restriction requirement, and claim 25 is canceled in this amendment. Claims 26-40 are thus now pending for examination. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

This amendment is in response to the final Office Action mailed October 3, 2001. Applicants believe that this amendment places the application in condition for allowance, and the entry of these amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of claims 33-40.

Claims 26-32 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 26 has now been rewritten as an independent claim that includes all of the limitations of claim 25, from which claim 26 previously depended. Each of claims 27-32 depends in some way from claim 26. Claims 26-32 should thus now be in condition for allowance, and such is therefore respectfully solicited.

Claim 25 was rejected under 35 USC § 102. That claim has been canceled in this amendment.

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been rewritten in response to the Examiner's reminder of the proper language and format. The abstract has been

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rewritten as a single paragraph, reference characters have been removed, and some minor changes have been made to enhance the abstract's clarity. Applicants believe that the abstract is now in proper form. The amended abstract is 223 words long.

Applicants submit that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome or rendered moot by this amendment. No new issues have been raised, moreover, and it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner believes that speaking with the applicant's attorney would help to advance the prosecution of this examination, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned attorney in his Los Angeles office at (213) 337-6700.

You are hereby authorized to charge any fees due and refund any surplus fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,

HOGAN &amp; HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: January 3, 2002

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